Depot Town Rag

FREE 100% RAG CONTENT

1986 AUGUST EVENTS
for the good of the block
The Foundation: 7th, 8 p.m.
The Association: 21st, 7:30
Michigan Artrain, 19-24
Heritage Festival, 22-24

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEPOT TOWN ASSOCIATION, INC. The Caboose, 400 Market Place, Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198

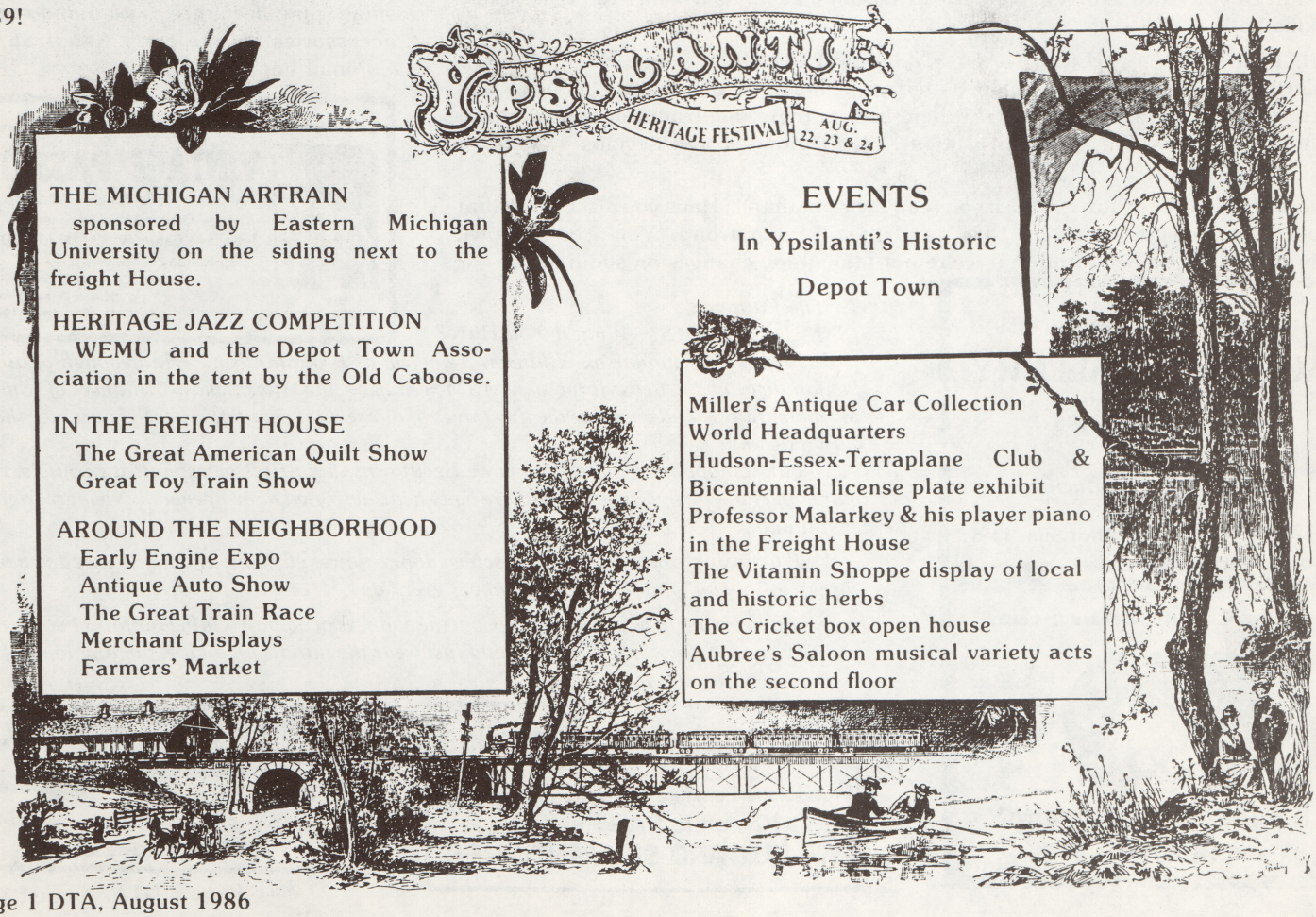
HERITAGE PARADE TO FINISH IN HISTORIC DEPOT TOWN

11 a.m. Saturday, August 23rd will see the Heritage parade step off from Recreation Park, travel Congress Street to Michigan Avenue, turn left onto north Huron Street, and then turn right at Huron Street to cross the new Cross Street Bridge for a spectacular ending in Depot Town. The antique autos will then take their place in the center of the district for their Saturday and Sunday displays. Bring blankets and lawn chairs and get ready for the biggest crowd Depot Town has seen since the Great Train Wreck of 1939!

EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY SPONSORS 1986 ARTRAIN

Ypsilanti's delightful Heritage Festival has brought out the best in its many service and community organizations, and perhaps the greatest presence in this year's Festival is that of Eastern Michigan University.

- Radio station WEMU continues to co-sponsor, with the Depot Town Association, the popular Heritage Jazz Competition as well as the Winter Jazz Series and the Frog Island Tent Blues & Jazz Festival.
- The Eastern Michigan Marching Band will return to school early this year to lead the Heritage Parade at 11 a.m. Saturday, August 23rd.
- EMU has taken on the entire sponsorship of the Michigan Artrain's third visit to Ypsilanti. The local steering committee has been meeting since May in preparation for this spectacular event.
- Stop by EMU's Information booth at the Artrain entrance near the Freight House and let them know how nice it is to have them in our community!


YPSILANTI
HERITAGE FESTIVAL
AUG. 22, 23 & 24
THE MICHIGAN ARTRAIN
sponsored by Eastern Michigan University on the siding next to the freight House.
HERITAGE JAZZ COMPETITION
WEMU and the Depot Town Association in the tent by the Old Caboose.
IN THE FREIGHT HOUSE
The Great American Quilt Show
Great Toy Train Show
AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD
Early Engine Expo
Antique Auto Show
The Great Train Race
Merchant Displays
Farmers' Market
EVENTS
In Ypsilanti's Historic
Depot Town
Miller's Antique Car Collection World Headquarters
Hudson-Essex-Terraplane Club & Bicentennial license plate exhibit
Professor Malarkey & his player piano in the Freight House
The Vitamin Shoppe display of local and historic herbs
The Cricket box open house
Aubree's Saloon musical variety acts on the second floor

A Greek Revival/Heritage Festival Quiz:

THEY CAME FROM ALL OVER - TO DEPOT TOWN

Can You Identify These Communities Today?

WHITTAKER, GEDDES and DIXBORO are still there, if not with a post office, at least with a dot on the map, but many smaller communities have succumbed to suburban sprawl. Early records and maps of neighborhood history show many places that don't exist anymore. Not only have the buildings changed, but the names have changed, too. How many of the following can you place in today's 'Greater Ypsilanti' environs?

PECKVILLE - EASTLAWN - EAST ANN ARBOR - PITTSFIELD - SUPERIOR - PANAMA - YORK

PECKVILLE - The Peck family's farmhouse still stands at the northeast corner of Forest and Stanley and most of those smaller Greek Revival cottages were Peck relatives around the time of the Civil War. Everyone in town called the neighborhood 'Peckville' then. It even appeared on maps of the period. Today it's part of Ward Five and in the Historic East Side Association.

EASTLAWN - is now that commerical district along Ecorse Road near Harris Road which eventually became part of Willow Run. Maybe *that's* downtown Willow Run!

EAST ANN ARBOR - was the area at the crux of Packard and Platt and was absorbed by all the plasticity in the 1960's. Now the name only survives on the hardware store. Ann Arbor attorney Art Carpenter worked for its incorporation, then founded Kerrytown. Why didn't he just stick with the real thing?

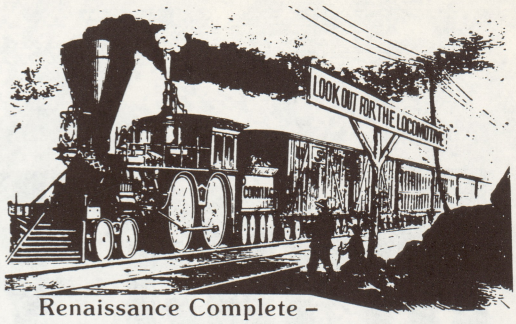
PITTSFIELD - Not just the housing project across from Arborland, but the present township was named for another railroad community where the Ann Arbor line crossed the Michigan Central line. It's still back there, just east of the Ann Arbor airport. We'd give better directions, but it's too wonderful to spoil with tourists.

SUPERIOR - Another Township which once showed as a town, these folks vied with Upper Peninsula politicos who wanted to become the fifty-first state with that same name.

PANAMA - You're probably standing in it as you read this. An 1839 map shows its center at Depot Town with its boundaries stretching as far as Dixboro to the west and Nankins Mills to the east.

WILLIS, STONY CREEK, MILAN, SALINE, BELLEVILLE - and all those other wonderful neighbors are still holding their own, much to the disgust of those who believe that "bigger is better." Wish them luck in their long tradition of small town neighborhoodliness, but do them a favor – don't move in and develop something 'modern'.

And MOOREVILLE - (or YORK, if you read the right map)! Have you discovered that one yet? It's been there since the 1820's and it's still going strong. You're on your own for this one. It's so delightful that we're not taking any chances on spoiling it!



Renaissance Complete –
Last Empty Storefront Filled

PEDDLER'S PATH Coming to Coming to 44 East Cross

One measure of Depot Town's return to respectability these last ten years has been the disappearance of empty store fronts. This month will mark the passing of the last vacant space in the neighborhood. More than two years ago, Emma Hall vacated her ground floor apartment next to Miller's Ice Cream Parlor and The Rag kept printing sunny reports of a caterer about to open up in that space. The only show, however, was what looked like a sale of two-by-fours during all that time.

Now, at long last, owners Rex and Sally Richie have contracted with Lesa Gaines and Pat Leach for a'country store' to appear at that location some time in August. Lesa and Pat hope to be in place before Heritage Festival with a line of 'country gift items' such as braided rugs, small pine furniture, and hand-crafted accessories for the early American and Colonial home decor.

Specializing in Unusual & Different Costume Jewelry
VINTAGE PASSION
Antiques - Collectables - Art Deco
Vintage Clothing and Accessories
Tuesday - Saturday: 11:00 to 6:00
Sunday: Noon to 5:00
32 E. Cross St.
Historic Depot Town
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197
Owner
Linda J Williams

To The Editor:

ISMS OR WASMS? What'll You Have?

Capitalism, Communism, Nihilism, Aetheism or Protestantism? Had enough of all that factionalization? Let's form a WASM group – the Washtenaw Alliance of Smaller Municipalities – and combine the tiny forces of our several small hamlets to guarantee that we stay that way.

No glitzy shopping centers. No more Levittowns, high-rises or asphalted cornfields. No more interstate interchanges. No more body heat/activated door-openers. No more frigid air conditioning.

We'll lobby for front porch swings, screen doors, flower gardens, and mailboxes down on the corner so we can chat with our neighbors every day.

We may turn out to be a small group, but the chances of actually liking the folks in that group are very good. If nothing else, we could just wear the initials on a lapel pin and look like we know something special. We do.

Constant Reader

Depot Town
AUCTION GALLERY
33 East Cross Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48198
Antiques
Buy, Sell, Trade, Auction
482-7500 Open Wed. Thru Sun. 11-5

Richard C. Laflin
bd
310 N. River
Ypsilanti, MI 48198
487-1510
B & D RETAIL PLUMBING
and HEATING, INC.

DEPOT EXCHANGE ANTIQUES
54 East Cross Street
Professional Furniture Stripping & Rrefinishing
10% off to RAG Readers
WE BUY AND SELL ANTIQUES

Ted's AUTO ELECTRIC
307 N. River St. Ypsilanti, MI
Phone: 483-1238

ATTILA RETURNS, ATTACKS WALLS

Architect Attila Huth has contracted for work on just about all of Depot Town this building season. Included in his rehabilitation projects this summer are the FOLLET HOUSE (Paponetti's, J & J Plastercraft, T.H.E. Market), the NEWEL BLOCK (Ike's Barbershop, Miller's Ice Cream Parlor, Peddler's Path), the Mc KEEVER BUILDING (James MacDonald Antiques, Apple Annie's Vintage Clothing), the MASONIC BLOCK (Hon's Flowers, River Art Works, Big Bob's Magazines) and the HANSEN BUILDING (Depot Town Auction House, Standard Printing). Interior and exterior projects include everything from window replacement to porch building to wall reconstruction.

The architect says that having so many projects so close together affords convenience to all his clients, since much of the equipment to be used will serve adjacent and neighboring buildings.

CABOOSE FOR SALE

Not the DTA's Old Caboose by the Farmers' Market, but an almost identical one - on a lake near Mt. Pleasant! If you've ever dreamed about owning one of your own, read on –.

A 1905 Grand Trunk Western Railroad Caboose sitting on a small central Michigan fishing lake. Ready to move into for summer fun. Water, septic and electric are in.

It's on its own arch-bar trucks, on a buildable lot overlooking gorgeous sunsets. Quiet location with year-round neighbors nearby. Approximately one acre, total.

$14,000 cash, terms considered. Call Maggie Murphy, Real Estate One, Mount Pleasant (517) 773-3994 or John Waite, Ypsilanti 482-4609.

Quotes From RAG Readers re Depot Town's Preservation TAKING CARE (is the business) OF DEPOT TOWN

If you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost; there is where they should be. Now put foundations under them. *Henry David Thoreau*

A recent TV show on the 'Great Houses of England' had a tweedy county lord bemoaning the fact that every hundred and fifty years or so everything in his old castle needed to be replaced. In the background the cameras showed the one and a half million dollar roof restoration in progress. The current owner took both the pain and the pride that went with such a project. Today's Depot Towners can identify with that bitter/sweet example.

This re-building season's most obvious example is the restoration in progress at number Twenty-nine, the home of James MacDonald Antiques and Apple Annie's Vintage Clothing. The sidewalk barrier quickly became a reviewing stand for armchair architects and amateur structural engineers as the braces went into the building and the deteriorating wall came down. The more than $100,000 replication and replacement is one of the most drastic projects of historic rehabilitation in Depot Town's recent decade of progress.

Cities, like dreams, are made of desires and fears, even if the thread of their discourse is secret, their rules are absurd, their perspectives deceitful, and everything conceals something else. *Italo Calvino*

Voter registration workers report that it is harder than ever to register people in rental units this summer. With the City inspecting multiple dwellings to bring them up to code, it seems many tenants don't want to tell who their landlord is or who else lives in the building.

Does our housekeeping raise and inspire us, or does it cripple us? *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

This historic Thompson block has made tabloid-style headlines with its owner and the City building department's confrontations over what needs to be done to save that sadly neglected structure. Perhaps it will be out of the courts and into the hands of skilled craftspersons by next year's Heritage Festival.

Those immortal ballads, "Home Sweet Home," "My Old Kentucky Home," and "The Little Gray Home in the West," were not written about tenements or apartments...They never sing songs about a pile of rent receipts. *Herbert Hoover*

Maybe so, but the last decade has seen people singing about a commercial railroad district. "A Depot Town Rag," "Boomer Days" and "Christmas in the City" all focused on the return of a Nineteenth Century shopping center. Come to think of it, many of those singers were residents, too.

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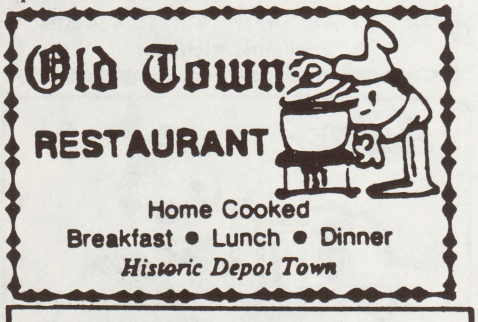
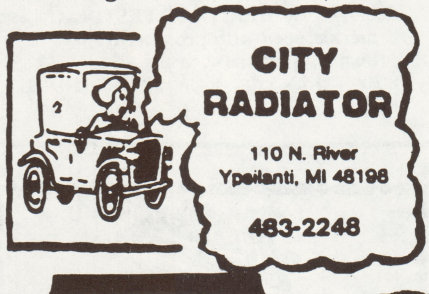
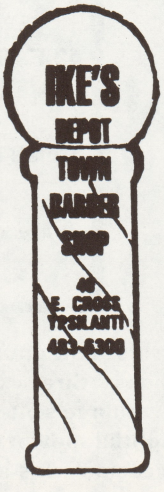
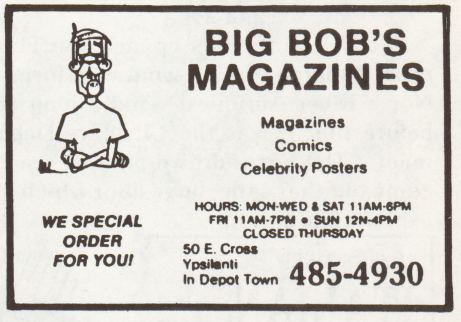
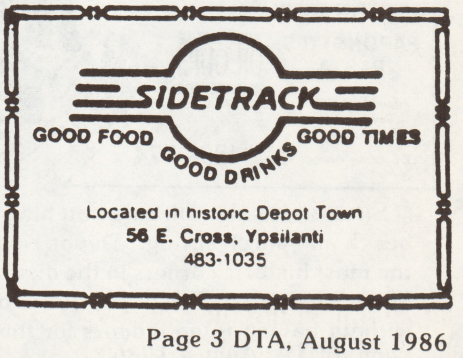










What was good for housing was good for the country.

National Association of Home Builders

Reaganomics have made it much more difficult for folks who want to rehabilitate old buildings. Unless you're a big developer with millions of other people's dollars to spend, you'll be managing this project out of your monthly cash flow. Many modern Americans find it easier to live in a tract home, shop at a cement block store on a carnival-like strip and drive to work down a concrete ditch. Depot Town's way may take longer, but think of the good old fashioned fun you'll have in the process.

There is not private life which is not determined by a wider public life.

George Eliot

When they moved from their shopping center location to a shop in this block, they never thought they would be opening early, staying late, running a rummage sale, sending the kid down the block for painting lessons, weeding gardens, and meeting in a hundred year old Caboose rather than a motel conference room. They felt quite modern, but their friends saw them as throw-backs to another generation.

Home fires are brightest Home ties are strongest, Home lives are happiest, Home loves are dearest.

American Sampler

Depot Town has re-instituted neighborhood traditions – speaking to pedestrians, waving out windows, talking back and forth between restaurants tables. And on another scale – street festivals, neighborhood dinners, picnics, public concerts, sidewalk and window displays, the farmers' market, ad infinitum. Time's the test. Old ways are best.

Morals reformed - health preserved - industry invigorated...all by a simple idea in architecture.

Jeremy Bentham

Nowhere in Ypsilanti have property values risen as they have in Depot Town in the last ten years. The crime rate has done the reverse. When a former neighborhood plumber returned after an eight year absence, he went into the Central Bar (now Sidetrack) and observed, "Boy, they sure wrecked this place, didn't they?"

Make the whole world homelike.

Frances Willard

These old Italiante buildings still do what they were meant to do. The shopowner's family lives upstairs. Fully half of Depot Town's property owners and managers are residents of the district.

This new adventure demands psyhological maturity, as the boyish heroism of the old adventures did not.

Lewis Mumford

This is the real world, not a place to open a 'cute' little shop for a couple of months. This is authentic – and it works. Welcome back to what America was. Depot Town.

483-3637

Our Little Secret

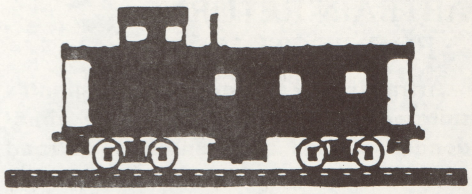
Resale Clothing & Other Niceties

23 E. Cross Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48198
In Historic Depot Town

SECOND COMING

Brochure Reprinted for Festival

DTA has updated and reprinted the district directory and after Heritage Festival, none are expected to remain on the counters. June's Frog Island Blues & Jazz Festival attendance paid for this one. Send any changes in copy for the third version to The Old Caboose as soon as possible.



NO MINUTES

Due to early publication of this issue for Heritage Festival, the July minutes of the Depot Town Association will be published in the next issue of The Rag.

EARLY SEPTEMBER

The September issue of The Rag will be on the streets for the last day of Heritage Festival, so watch for the August minutes a month late, also. Any 'specials' should be turned in to the Old Caboose at once.

A ONE HUNDRED-YEAR OLD WOODEN GRAND TRUNK CABOOSE

For Your Private Party!

The Depot Town Association will give you the use of its antique home on the tracks next to the Farmers' Market for the smallest imaginable fee. It's a great place for kids' birthday parties, catered dinners for up to eight, small meetings or your own version of Murder On The Orient Express. Call us today and see how reasonable we are. (482-6371)

Depot Town Rag

THE DEPOT TOWN RAG:

A publication of the Depot Town Association, Inc., a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation dedicated to preserving the unique character of the neighborhood and to the enhancement of its business climate.

The Depot Town Association, Inc.
Gary McKeever, President
The Caboose, 400 Market Place
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198

Hon's

Flowers & Fancies

46 E. Cross • 482-2124
DEPOT TOWN, YPSILANTI

Eggs Milk Grains Produce Nuts Dried Fruits
Pasta Breads Juices Goats Milk Tempeh
Herbs Canned Goods Teas Spices
Yogurt Tofu Beans

YPSI Food Co-op

312 N. River 483-1520
Sun. 12 - 4 Mon - Fri 10 - 7 Sat. 9 - 6

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PROGRAMS • FLYERS
BUSINESS CARDS
LETTERHEADS • COPIES
WEDDINGS • ENVELOPES

"Historic Depot Town"

35 E. Cross • 483-0339

ARTRAIN RETURNS FOR FESTIVAL

Artrain's 1971 stop in Ypsilanti's railroad district found the same abandonded sidings and run-down railroad district as in most of America since World War II. When Artrain returned ten years later, in 1981, the district was in full sail under the winds of the historic preservation ethic. Now, fifteen years later, the grafitti-covered Artrain will sit in one of the most lovingly restored railroad districts in America. And best of all, it's the real thing. Just like the real art on board, Depot Town is current and up-to-date. You can bet that the Artrain staff will be looking us over, too.

IN ONE QUICK LESSON YOU CAN BE AN ARTRAIN GALLERY GUIDE

On-board training sessions for gallery guides will take place on Tuesday and Wednesday, August 19 and 20. You don't need to be an expert – just show an interest – and the Artrain staff and committee will tell you everything else you need to know to help people through the fascintating exhibit on board. Call today to get on the schedule and be a gallery guide. (482-6371)

The Cricket Box

a specialty gift & card shop

.... featuring Sunrise & Green Tiger Press cards, Gwen Frostic Stationary, Dakin animals, dolls, stoneware, crystal, antiques, Bill Coleman photography, and more ....

27 East Cross Street
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198
(313)487-5595
located in Ypsilanti's historic "Depot Town"

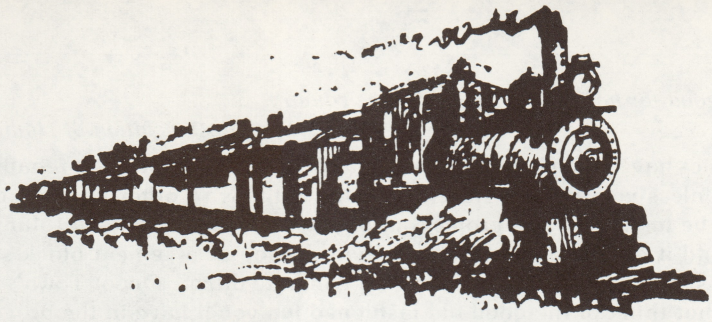
Now recycling newspapers, glass, metal cans, and oil

YPSILANTI RECYCLING PROJECT

SITE HOURS: 9-3 P.M. Sat.

For more information
STOP BY OR CALL
(office phone) 487-9727

Located behind 32 E. Cross Street



///Artrain

Signs of the Times: Pop Art and Photo-Realism in America

1986 Artrain Exhibition in Ypsilanti's Depot Town, August 19 - 25

Sponsored by Eastern Michigan University

It has been almost thirty years since American Pop artists first confronted us with the glossy world of commercial imagery and commonplace objects. Their fascination with popular culture and its material products and images began a new era in American art. SIGNS OF THE TIMES explores the sources and development of the Pop Art movement of the fifties and sixties which in turn inspired the Photo-Realism in the 1970's.

The tour of the exhibit, housed in four railroad cars, begins in the Alden B. Dow Gallery car where visitors to SIGNS OF THE TIMES will view a four-screen audio-visual presentation. The eight minute program will show some of the forerunners of Pop Art and will highlight the art and culture of the fifties, sixties and seventies. The viewer will see the fashion, automobiles, buildings, movie idols, and even billboards that had an influence on or were influenced by pop artists. The presentation will be enlivened by a soundtrack of the popular music from the period.

Next, visitors will view the sculpture area of where objects such as Andy Warhol's "Brillo Box" and Claes Oldenburg's Poemetric Mouse," a spin-off from Disney's Mickey Mouse, show the interest of Pop artists focusing on the manufactured symbols and popular images that surround us in everyday life.

In leaving the Dow Gallery car, guests will pass through a hallway bearing large color transparency photographs of Pop sculptures too large to fit inside the gallery. Photographs will also show examples of Pop architecture including The Big Donut Drive-In which sports a twenty foot high donut on its roof and the Tail o' the Pup hot dog stand shaped like the product it sells.

Within Artrain's next two gallery cars will be paintings, prints, drawings and sculptures by America's best-known Pop artists and Photo-Realists on loan from major American collections such as the Whitney and the Museum of Modern Art in New York and the Smithsonian's Hirshorn Museum in Washington, D.C. SIGNS OF THE TIMES gives an overview of the subjects, techniques and styles that convey the artists' perceptions of the realities and illusions of contemporary life. Included in the exhibit are Roy Lichtenstein's print "Sweet Dreams Baby!" done in the style of comic book art, Robert Bechtle's five foot high oil painting "61 Pontiac" which resembles an over-sized family snapshot, and Andy Warhol's famous "Campbell's Mushroom Soup Can," along with more than forty other works by Jasper Johns, Robert Rauschenberg, Chuck Close and many others.

In the last exhibition car, the Helen W. Milliken Studio, local artists and craftspeople will have the opportunity to join Artrain's staff painter and ceramicist in demonstrating their skills for Artrains's visitors. The entire tour of the train takes approximately one hour.

ARTRAIN HOURS:

Tuesday	August 19	8 P.M. Grand Opening
Wednesday	August 20	Noon - 8 P.M.
Thursday	August 21	Noon - 8 P.M.
Friday	August 22	Noon - 8 P.M.
Saturday	August 23	Noon - 8 P.M.
Saturday	August 23	Noon - 8 P.M.
Sunday	August 24	Noon - 6 P.M.
On Monday	August 25	Artrain departs for Lincoln, Nebraska.

Heritage Square's handsome new grey and white trim picks out its accent colors from the longest awning on the block and unifies the long series of shops which include The Grand Trunk, Ltd., The Candy Shop, T.H.E. Company, The Vitamin Shoppe and Heritage Real Estate. It's nice to know that everything in the Historic District doesn't have to be painted in 'earth tones.' Good job, H Square. You look very neat and trim.

THE GRAND TRUNK, LTD.
CARDS & GIFTS
CALIFORNIA DREAMERS
ROCKSHOTS
COLONIAL CANDLES
SUZYS ZOO
WINDSOCKS
STATIONERY
IMPRINTING
GIFT WRAP
MAIL RECEIVING
ARTIST CONSIGNMENTS
15 E. CROSS
YPSILANTI, MI 485-4994
HOURS - 10 A.M. - 5 P.M.
IN HISTORIC DEPOT TOWN

A COMPLETE LINE OF PREMIUM VITAMINS, HERBS & NUTRITIONAL SUPPLEMENTS
the VITAMIN SHOPPE
9 E. Cross • Ypsilanti, MI 48198 • 313/485-2711

THOMPSON BUILDING MALL
412 N. River
over 4000 square feet featuring several dealers
furniture stripping
refinishing & reapir
brass & metal polishing
mirror resilvering
all types glass repair
including stained glass & beveling
PICK UP & DELIVERY AVAILABLE
12-6 daily
484-4288

Paul Klawitter has opened the Thompson Building Mall in what wea formerly North River Antiques. And a long time before that it was the City Fire Department. The horse-drawn pumper used to come out that same huge door which now exhibits fine antiques.

THERE'S A NEW
ITALIAN
IN DEPOT TOWN
PAPONETTI'S PASTA
YOUR HOUSE OR OURS
(WE CATER, TOO)
Specializing in Homemade Italian Food & Pastries
17 E. Cross • Depot Town 483-3574

RAGTIME
THE GOOD OLD DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN, DOWN IN DEPOT TOWN!

Ypsilanti's Farmers' Market
in historic Depot Town

AUGUST
ON EXHIBIT
"Country/City Garden Tour"
A photo view of local gardens.
SATURDAY EVENTS
8/2 — Market "Corn Roast N' Boil" sweet samples 10-2.
8/9 — "Salads Safari-Dressed Uniquely" Food Co-op Demo 10-1.
8/16 — "Making Herb Vinegars" sales & live demo at 10 & 12.
8/23 — 1986 HERITAGE FESTIVAL - market open with produce, train booths, quilt show, crafts.
8/30 — "Kidscrafts" scrapcrafts for kids, 9-2.

Miller's ICE CREAM
42 E. Cross Ypsilanti, Michigan
485-7548
WEEKLY SPECIALS
Come in and enjoy your first cone of the season ! ! !
Always a Double Dip Special for 75¢

SECRET STAIRWAY UNCOVERED

Depot Town diggers always expect to find another tunnel when they dig up anything in the neighborhood, but last month's discovery was completely unexpected. Demolition work on Number Twenty-Nine needed special care when it came to removing the first floor wall, since James MacDonald Antiques and Apple Annie's Vintage Clothing had recently remodeled their interior. The giant front-loader only made two tiny nicks in the interior wall, but the big surprise came when the wall nearest the back alley came down. There they found a long-hidden stairway which used to connect the store area with the second floor apartment. No one in recent history even knew it was there. Maybe we can add this to the neighborhood lore of the underground railroad?

Jim MacDonald's Antiques
Apple Annie's Vintage Clothing
29 East Cross • 481-0555
Tuesday-Saturday 12-6 Sunday 12-4

August at THE DEPOT DOO
Perm Special $30.00
Complete Style $10.00
Child Cut $6.00
WITH THIS AD!

DEPOT DOO
"fine design in hair style"
In Historic Depot Town
25 East Cross Street • 313/484-3045
Ypsilanti, Michigan

Aubree's
Depot Town
Ypsilanti, Michigan

Sitting in a sidewalk cafe watching the life of the city is one of the most pleasant activities of the summer. It's right up there with beach and porch sitting. Depot Town boasts three excellent examples: Paponetti's Pasta shows three shady spaces on one of the most historic corners in the district. Aubree's offers al fresco conviviality at umbrelled wrought iron tables and chairs, while Miller's Ice Cream Parlor provides a delightful spot for dessert. See if you can create your own 'round robin' dinner extravaganza without having to go indoors for the occasion. It's another example of the 'good old summertime' in good old Depot Town.